Joy... Peace

At this Glorious and Holy time, we wish for all mankind the great gifts of peace and joy, faith and love. May our spirits be uplifted, and our hearts filled with happiness and contentment, as we cherish anew the glorious message and meaning of Christmas. For the confidence and loyalty of those whom we are privileged to serve, we wish to express deepest gratitude.

BEN FRANKLIN

Triangle Plaza Shopping Center
Appomattox, Va.

JEAN T. BEAR, HEAD
VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY
RICHMOND, VA. 23219

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

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Father Darkleaf

BY
CALVIN ROBINSON

Monday morning, December 26, and all is well in Appomattox. Save for those homes with absent loved ones or where illness was present. It was an ideal Christmas. No snow. Mild temperatures under clear skies and the main order of business to open gifts and eat. The few times I ventured out, highway traffic was light. Youngsters with new bikes had a ball. Christmas music at the churches and traditional yuletide message. Sports and holiday specials on TV. Some would have preferred a bit of snow. I did not see any mistletoe. Postal employees handled the seasonal volume of mail smoothly and workers at stores and other business places rendered top service. Saw an antique automobile gliding along, loaded with happy passengers.

* * *

Senior citizens are saddened to hear of the death Christmas Day of Charles Spenser Chaplin, the famed comedy star of the silent movies. He was 86. "The Kid." "City Lights" and many other great movies showed him as the underdog turning tragedy into hilarious humor. He tried talking movies late in his career, but it was in silent films as the underdog with the cane, tiny mustache and shuffling walk that he scored his triumphs.

* * *

Many business places are taking inventory and ready with special after-Christmas sales.

Came across a business card a former Appomattox man had printed upon his retirement. Had his name in the center & in the four corners the words . . . "No Phone. No Address. No Business. No Money." Neat. But not always the way it works out. Retirement or no, there is always something to do.

* * *

My longtime friend, Wm. T. Evans came by for a visit and brought me a copy of the one hundred year history of The Washington **POST**. Filled with reproduction of its news coverage of famous events of the past century.

* * *

As '77 goes into history, there will be the usual crop of New Year Resolutions. As usual, I will resolve to have a garden, to catalog my library, and such, and, as usual, will be only partially successful. But as the year ends, my thoughts go to those to whom we should, one and all, address our thanks. Areawide, we enjoy a high standard of living, so be thankful that you have a job and/or income to meet your needs. Why not tell your employer that you are grateful for employment and will do your best in '78. And be thankful for good neighbors and the family members who add so much to your life. We owe a card of thanks to police, town, county and state, that law and order prevails. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Rescue Squads, whose members are constantly alert to help us in emergency. And our firemen, on call to protect our home and property and hold lossage to a minimum. To our doctors, dentists, and nurses, to hospitals and staffs. To quality professional people who are ready to counsel and serve us. To our Ministers who lead the spiritual life of the community to a very high standard. To teachers and school staffs who face the awesome challenge of education. To bus drivers, delivery trucks, service stations, garage and repair personnel. And to farmers who toil, often without adequate recognition. Taxpayers, who struggle to contribute the money for all the endless services the public asks. To housewives who work, work, work to maintain the Home. To students who absorb knowledge for a better life. In fact, gentle friends, there are so many, so very many, to whom we should say "thanks" that we are made to realize that Appomatox is great, Virginia is great, America is great and working together we will make 1978 great.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya next week.

Mrs. Hopkins Appointed Heart Chairman

Mrs. Delories Hopkins of Appomattox has been appointed the 1978 Chairman for the American Heart Association Campaign in Appomatox County. Richard C. Purvis, Chairman of the Board of the Virginia Affiliate of American Heart made the announcement today.

As chairman of the Appomattox County Heart Fund Campaign, Mrs. Hopkins will coordinate area volunteers during the February drive as they distribute life saving educational materials and ask for donations to support the Heart Association's programs of research, education and community service. Many Virginians have already directly benefited from free blood pressure screening programs and courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation coordinated by local Heart volunteers throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, twenty-four research projects at the state's three medical schools are being supported by public contributions to the American Heart Association.

"The statistics are alarming," stated Mrs. Hopkins. "One in every two individuals who will die this year will die of cardiovascular disease. In fact, last year right here in Appomattox County, 57.4 percent of the deaths were due to heart attack, stroke or other cardiovascular diseases. Heart disease is by far America's Number One Killer. I believe the Heart Association's new slogan--We're Fighting For Your Life--dramatically points out the import mission of the Heart Association and indicates the need for everyone to support the Heart Fund. I would like to urge all the residents of Appomattox to be generous when the Heart volunteer calls."

In addition, Mrs. Hopkins urged anyone who would like to work on the campaign to call her at 352-5460 or 352-5474.

We're
sending your way
a cheery wish
for the happiest of New
Year's. It's been our
pleasure serving you,
and we hope to do so
long into the future.

Greetings for the New Year

Times - Virginian

Staff and Correspondents

MR. W. D. MCCLURE, JR., MANAGER OF THE RICHMOND ZONE FOR THE CHEVROLET MOTOR DIVISION, is shown presenting Mr. Donald Armentrout, principal of the Appomattox County High School, keys to a Chevrolet Caprice Classic Station Wagon in a brief ceremony held Wed., Dec. 21, in the Power Mechanics Department of Appomattox County High School. Looking on is Mr. Charles T. Moses, Jr., (left); President of Moses Motor Company and Mr. R. C. Moore, Jr., Power Mechanics Instructor at Appomattox County High School. The vehicle is a donation to the school for instructional purposes.

Power Mechanics Receives Donated Chevrolet Vehicle

Some of the Chevrolet cars and trucks now turning out the most impressive "mileage" are those that have never been driven a mile on the road, such as the Chevrolet Caprice Classic recently donated to the Power Mechanics Department at Appomattox County High School in Appomattox, Va.

These vehicles total nearly 2,000 cars and trucks damaged by wrecks, floods, and other mishaps on the way to dealer showrooms which have been given to schools and other institutions to help build automotive mechanical careers for young men.

Also included in the program are engineering test and pilot line cars, not available for sale.

"At latest count, after five years of the Chevrolet donation program, damaged cars and trucks and test cars had been turned over to schools and institutions in most of the 50 states," according to R. D. Good, Chevrolet's national director of service operations.

In addition, Chevrolet also has donated large numbers of car and truck engines, transmissions and other major automotive components to schools for vocational studies.

"The donation program was begun in 1971," Good said, "in an effort to find a more useful purpose for the damaged units which previously wound up in the scrap crusher."

To make sure the vehicles are never operated again, schools receiving them must sign an affidavit that they will not be driven. Donated tags are fastened to the vehicles and their identification numbers are removed by Chevrolet. Institutions receiving them must be non-profit organizations.

The damaged vehicles become available through Chevrolet's 44 zone sales offices across the nation whenever an accident occurs causing damage to units being shipped. The

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Tax Rate Structure Approved

Council Approves Budget

Increase Over 1977 Budget

Appomattox Town Council adopted the budget for 1978 and approved the amended and new ordinances for the tax rate structure, effective Dec. 31, 1977, as presented at the recessed meeting held Monday night, Dec. 19, 1977.

The budget, as adopted, calls for operating expenses amounting to $329,928.00 for 1978 as opposed to a $233,882.00 budget for 1977. These figures reflect an increase in the budget for 1978 in the amount of $96,046.00.

A public hearing was held December 12th to discuss new ordinances concerning Water and Sewage Charges, changes in Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates, and the proposed budgeting of Revenue Sharing Funds.

Of those attending the Public Hearings, most of the citizens indicated that they would realize a tax increase of up to 97 percent. The Town of Appomattox, in order to balance the proposed budget, needed a tax increase of approximately 11.5%.

Mayor Henry Pack recessed the December 12th meeting so that council could reconsider the proposed budget.

In the recessed meeting held December 19th, council approved the following tax rate structure for the Town of Appomattox: Real Estate Tax will be 20c on every one hundred dollars of the assessed values of said real estate at 100 percent of appraised value of said real estate (originally the rate had been proposed at the rate of 30c on every one hundred dollars of the assessed values); Personal Property will be assessed at 55c per one hundred dollars of assessed values; Merchant's tax rate will be 40c per one hundred dollars of the assessed values; and Machinery tax will be $1.10 on every one hundred dollars of the assessed values.

Water Rates were approved as follows: **IN Town:** $6.50 minimum for up to 4,000 gallons, overage at 90c per 1,000 gallons; **Out of Town:** $15.00 for up to 4,000 gallons, overage at $1.00 per 1,000 gallons. Sewerage rate charges for Out of Town Customers will be 38c per 100 assessed valuation of property to be billed once a year as in the past; for In Town Customers rates will be 25% of water bill, to be billed with each water billing period; and the rate for In Town Customers who do not have water service has been set at 19c per $100 of assessed Real Estate value to be billed once a year.

The 1978 bnudget shows $30,000 expenses for Appomattox Public Schools electric charges and $40,000 for C.E.T.A. program. Both of the items are reimbursable.

In the 1978 budget, $227,028.00 was approved for expenditures from the General Fund; $25,000 was approved for expenditures for the Sewer Fund; and $77,900 was approved for expenditures for the Water Fund.

Of the $227,028 approved and allocated for the General Fund, $129,322.00 will go for Administrative Expenses; $21,656.00 goes for Property and Construction; $29,350.00 goes to the Police Department; $6,150.00 goes to the Fire Department; $14,550.00 goes to the Sanitation Department; and the Street Department will receive $26,000.00.

In other business, council gave consent to William Britton, Town Manager, to prepare documents to go to bid on the finished plans on the proposed addition to the Fire House. The Town of Appomattox will pay one-half this cost and the County of Appomattox will pay the other one-half.

Council adopted a motion requesting a partial grant form the State Water Control Board for Sept 1's I. and I. Study.

The water level in Appomattox is seven feet below normal water average, the lowest on record according to the State Water Control Board.

A copy of the budget as adopted by the Appomattox Town Council can be found on another page of this newspaper.

Landmark Partially Destroyed By Fire

"The Section House," antique shop owned and operated by Mrs. H. Y. (Elaine McD.) Spencer, was partially destroyed by fire on Thursday night, December 22nd.

Despite the efforts of the Appomattox Volunteer Firemen, two rooms of the six-room house were badly burned.

The name "Section House" did not come into being with the opening of the antique shop but was called that from the time the house was built between 1906 and 1912.

Constructed as a place of residence for the foreman of the Norfolk and Western Railway, the building was used as such for many years until change made such provisions for the railroad foreman unnecessary.

No longer needed by the railroad, the property was sold to the late H. Y. Spencer. It was utilized as rental property for many years. It was in 1970 that Mrs. Spencer opened an antique shop which continued as such until the fire.

According to Mrs. Spencer, no estimate has been made as yet to determine the loss in terms of dollars.

There are some things that money cannot replace and the landmark on the corner of Main and Court Streets and the antiques speaking of another time and another way of life are among those irreplaceable things.

A. A. To Have Open Meeting January 3

The Appomattox Group of Alcoholics Anonymous will have an open meeting on Tuesday evening, January 3 at 8:00 at St. Anne's Episcopal Church on Oakleigh Avenue. There will be a guest speaker from Lynchburg.

Anyone interested in the problem of alcohol or alcoholism is cordially invited to attend.

Fidelity American Bankshares, Inc. And Central National Corporation To Become Commonwealth Banks, Inc.

The Boards of Directors of Central National Corporation and Fidelity American Bankshares, Inc. today announced ratification of an agreement in principle for the two companies to consolidate to form a new bank holding company to be named Commonwealth Banks, Inc. The initial affiliation agreement had been approved by the Executive Committees of the two organizations in November.

In a joint statement released today, Alvin R. Clements, president and chief executive officer of Fidelity American Bankshares, Inc., and Carroll L. Saine, president and chief executive officer of Central National Corporation, noted, "The response to the announcement in late November of our proposed affiliation has been most gratifying. Comments from shareholders, customers and the brokerage community, as well as our respective staffs, have been overwhelmingly favorable. It is apparent to them, as it is to us, that the mutual benefits of the consolidation are numerous.

"One of the major immediate benefits will be a greater market coverage of the Commonwealth. Fidelity American is concentrated in the Central, Southside and Tidewater areas of the state, while Central National is primarily located in the Richmond - Petersburg and Northern Virginia markets. In addition, the new company will have a more balanced mix of loans and deposits in the retail and corporate sectors. Central National has an established base of large corporate customers while Fidelity American has been historically retail or consumer oriented. Another benefit will be that the combined assets of the two holding companies will be suffiently large to enable us to compete in almost any marketplace at both the state and the national levels. And finally, we expect the consolidation to result in increased economies which ultimately should lead to a reduction of overall expenses"

Saine and Clements further commented, "Of course, there are not all of the benefits of the benefits of the consolidation, but are certainly foremost among those we foresee at the present time."

Clements will assume the role of Chairman of the Board of Commonwealth Banks, Inc. His major functional responsibilities at the corporate level will include overseeing operations and administration. Clements will also head the Fidelity American Bank Division of the new organization.

Saine will be president of the new company with primary corporate responsibility for the management of loans and investments. He will also be in charge of the Central National Bank division.

The headquarters for Commonwealth Banks, Inc. will be located in Richmond. Commenting on this selection, Saine and Clements indicated that this choice is appropriate for two reasons. First, Richmond is a district headquarters city for the Federal Reserve System and the financial center of Virginia. Second, the capital city is the seat of important regulatory and legislative bodies whose activities directly affect the banking industry.

The proposed merger would have a minimal impact upon the operations of the individual banks which will comprise the new holding company. The continued importance of Fidelity American Bank, NA, the largest bank in the Fidelity American system, was stressed by Lewis B. Goode, Jr., its president. "Our bank will be the largest bank affiliate in the new holding company and will continue to serve central and southside Virginia with the same management, staff, services, local levels of decision-

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Fidelity American Declares Dividend

LYNCHBURG, VA., Dec. 22, 1977 - The Board of Directors of Fidelity American Bankshares, Inc., a Virginia multi-bank holding company with total assets of $941 million, has declared cash dividends of $0.25 per share on its common stock and $1.50 per share on its cumulative convertible voting preferred stock, series A.

Both dividends are payable Feb. 1, 1978 to shareholders of record as of Dec. 30, 1977.

BANKS - POST OFFICES TO OBSERVE HOLIDAY MONDAY

Post Offices in Appomattox and in Pamplin will close Monday, January 2, in observance of the New Year holiday. There will be no window service and no rural delivery on that day.

American Federal Savings and Loan Association, Farmers National Bank, Fidelity American Bank, and the First National Bank of Farmville - Pamplin Branch will all be closed Monday, January 2, in observance of the New Year holiday.

CONGRESSMAN DANIEL HELD WORKSHOP HERE

Dan Daniel, Representative of the Fifth Congressional District, held a workshop in Appomattox on Tuesday morning, December 20. Mrs. Barbara R. Williams, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appomattox County, on the right of Rep. Daniel, Mrs. Frances Paulette and Robert Carter are shown in photo above as they took a few minutes Tuesday to talk with the Congressman.

Congressman Daniel believes that in order to effectively represent the voters in his district he must learn how these people think, what they feel and then try to understand the needs. The Congressman believes this is important to be a true representative of the people.